

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PHNOM 08634 260536Z

11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /090 W

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P 260507Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6665

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 8634

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, CB

SUBJECT: QUESTION OF CORRUPTION IN CAMBODIA AND CONGRESSIONAL
ATTITUDES

REF: A. STATE 132716

B. STATE 134396

6. AT OUR JUNE 24 MEETING GKR FORMIN KEUKY LIM
CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED A CABLE FROM AMBASSADOR
UM SIM RECOMMENDING THAT THE GKR ISSUE A STATEMENT
EXPLAINING STEPS THAT HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO PREVENT
WASTAGE AND DIVERSION OF US-SUPPLIED MUNITIONS. I
GAVE LIM A COPY OF THE TEXT OF THE ELIZABETH BECKER
ARTICLE ON CORRUPTION, AS REQUESTED BY UM SIM (REF B),
AND COMMENTED THAT IN OUR VIEW THE PROBLEM IS MUCH
BROADER THAN SIMPLY THE MATTER OF MUNITIONS. LIM SAID
THE MESSAGE FROM WASHINGTON CONCERNED ONLY MUNITIONS
(WHICH IS TRUE: SEE FYI PORTION BELOW.) HE SAID THAT
FANK HQ HAD PREPARED A STATEMENT WHICH WAS BEING "CLEARED"
WITH US. I REITERATED THAT SOMETHING MORE IS NEEDED
THAN SIMPLY A RUN-DOWN OF THE VARIOUS STEPS BEING TAKEN
TO CONSERVE AMMUNITION.

2. SUCH A STATEMENT, I CONTINUED, OUGHT TO ADDRESS
ITSELF TO CORRUPTION, ABUSES AND MALPRACTICES IN GENERAL.
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PAGE 02 PHNOM 08634 260536Z

FURTHERMORE, IT SHOULD BE ISSUED BY A HIGH LEVEL OF

THE GOVERNMENT, NOT THE MILITARY. IN ADDITION, ACTIONS AS WELL AS STATEMENTS ARE NEEDED. A GOVERNMENT STATEMENT SHOULD CITE SPECIFIC ACTIONS THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN TAKEN AND SHOULD OUTLINE ADDITIONAL STEPS THAT ARE BEING UNDERTAKEN TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM. FOR EXAMPLE, I SUGGESTED, GKR COULD CITE THE REVAMPING OF THE FANK PAY SYSTEM AND THE ELIMINATION OF PHANTOMS, NEW CONTROLS OVER AVGAS TO PREVENT ITS DIVERSION, AND STEPS TAKEN TO CONSERVE AMMO AND PREVENT DIVERSIONS. I SAID THE STATEMENT SHOULD EXPRESS THE GKR'S SERIOUS CONCERN OVER THE PROBLEM, AND SHOULD PERHAPS ANNOUNCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMITTEE TO RECEIVE AND INVESTIGATE CHARGES OF CORRUPTION WHICH CAN BE DOCUMENTED AND ARE NOT SIMPLY BASED ON RUMORS. IF THE PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DIVERSION OF AVGAS WHO I UNDERSTAND HAVE BEEN CAUGHT WERE TO BE PUNISHED, THIS ALSO SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE STATEMENT AS EVIDENCE THAT ACTION IS BEING TAKEN. THIS SORT OF DECLARATION WOULD HAVE A FAVORABLE IMPACT INTERNALLY ON KHMER PUBLIC OPINION, AS WELL AS WITH THE CONGRESS IN WASHINGTON, I SAID.

3. LIM TOOK NOTES AND I BELIEVE HE WILL PASS THESE IDEAS ON TO THE PRIME MINISTER.

4. FYI. CHIEF, MEDTC, WAS GIVEN A COPY OF UM SIM'S CABLE AS WELL AS DRAFT OF A PROPOSED GKR DECLARATION PREPARED BY EMG. UM SIM'S CABLE DOES FOCUS ON CRITICISM OF "LE GASPILLAGE ET LE TRAFFIC DE MUNITIONS" AND IT RECOMMENDS THAT THE GKR ISSUE A STATEMENT REGARDING MEASURES TAKEN TO STOP MISUSE OF AMMO IN ORDER TO ASSIST CONGRESSIONAL FRIENDS OF THE GKR'S CAUSE. THE EMG DRAFT PRESENTS EXPENDITURE FIGURES AND ARGUMENTS TENDING TO SUPPORT THE VIEW THAT THE GKR HAS DONE A GOOD JOB OF CONSERVING AMMO. END FYI.

DEAN

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